

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image pickup element including: a plurality of pixels that pick up an object image; a gain variable amplifying circuit that amplifies a signal
5 from the plurality of pixels; and a semiconductor substrate on which the plurality of pixels and the gain variable amplifying circuit are formed, wherein the gain variable amplifying circuit includes a first amplifying circuit that amplifies the signal from the
10 plurality of pixels and a second amplifying circuit that amplifies a signal from the first amplifying circuit and is connected in series with the first amplifying circuit; and wherein a gain of the first amplifying circuit is switched at every first
15 multiple and a gain of the second amplifying circuit is switched at every second multiple different from the first multiple.